



THE ROTARY RAZZ

Rotary Club of Oak Park - River Forest, Illinois

No in-person meetings until further notice

Club 3190
District 6450

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TODAY IN OPRF ROTARY



Keep in mind, we are NOT Meeting on Wednesday, November 25th to prepare for the thanksgiving holiday on November 26. Enjoy the Holiday with your

families.



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Also, This Week in Rotary

Nov. 23 - Holiday Party Planning Mtg. - 7 PM

Nov. 26 - A very Blessed & Happy Thanksgiving Holiday to All!!



Trouble logging on to OPRF's Zoom,

For now, reach out to:

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PLATINUM



GOLD



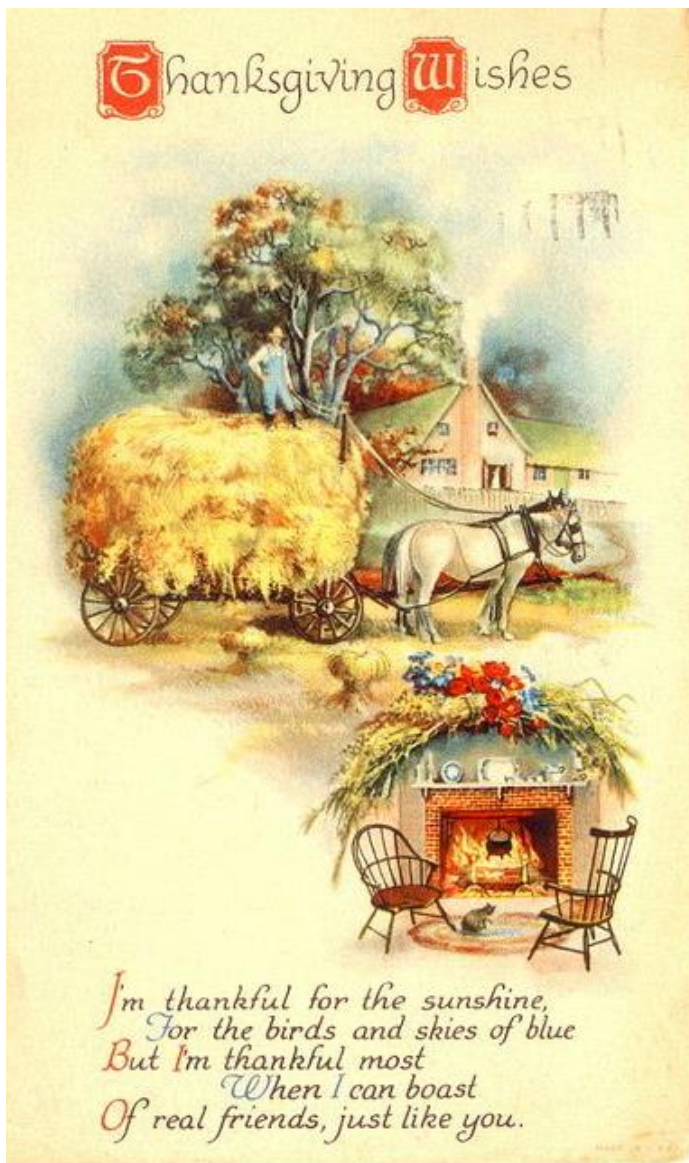
SILVER



BRONZE



The President's Corner . .



From our house to yours, Mike and I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Just a REMINDER . . . Giving Tuesday this year is Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

*Yours in
Rotary,
Sue Quinn
President
2020-21*



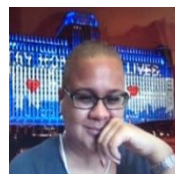
**DECEMBER
Disease
Prevention &
Treatment
Month**

2 - Shelly Harris - Oak Park Public Library
9 - OPRF Rotary Club - Annual Meeting
13 - Interact Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
16 - Board Meeting - 10:45 AM
16 - Holiday Meeting
23 - NO MEETING
30 - NO MEETING

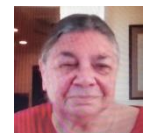
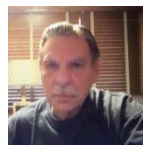


President Sue opened the meeting. "Happy Wednesday, Everybody. It's a beautiful day, and the sun is out. We're supposed to get some warmer weather tomorrow. So, thanks for being here, and welcome to all our guests. Mikayla, we haven't had a crowd this size since pre-COVID. So, obviously we've got a great turnout for you - not to put the pressure on you or anything like that. We're happy that you're presenting to us, and we're also happy to welcome all our guests. As I call on each of you, would you please unmute and introduce yourselves."

Our guests included: Mark Zerinskas, President of Oak Forest Rotary, attending at Ade's invitation;



Christine Zekis, Ade's daughter and Mikayla's Aunt; Sandra Sokol, "glad to be returning to Rotary, hoping everyone is safe and well," long-time



friend of Rotary; Steven Amu, honorary Onayemi, and "proud as heck to be here;" Daria, invited by Ade, and "delighted to be here;" Kathy Onayemi, proud grandmother; and Speaker Mikayla

Onayemi;

President Sue asked DGN [and proud grampa of today's speaker] to lead the group in the Pledge of

Allegiance, which he did after thanking all our visiting friends.

We had our Board meeting this morning, and thank you to all who attended, especially new Board member Carla Sloan. Sue than shared a few

Announcements:

- Werner and Laurie Huget are sick with COVID, so, please keep them in your prayers. So far, they seem to be doing fine. They are at home experiencing what seem to be typical symptoms not requiring any additional medical help. So, everyone, please, **STAY HOME & STAY SAFE.**
- Happy Belated Birthday to Scott McAdam from last week. Scott and Veronika celebrated his birthday with a quick 4-day trip to their place in Florida. Scott shared he did test when he returned; everyone should know he tested negative; it's safe; you cannot get COVID on Zoom!
- Kidz Express update from Lesley reported we are "this close" to getting that money from RI so we can turn it over and truly begin working on the grant project.

Program Notes

Lesley introduced our day's speaker Mikayla Onayemi, the Vice President for Public Image of the Interact Club of Greater Oak Park, River Forest, Forest Park. She is an absolutely amazing, modest, and extremely bright and inspiring young woman. "I am sure by the end of the program you will all agree."

Mikayla introduced herself as a 15-year-old high school sophomore. Mikayla explained that today she would be explaining how the Interact Club is advocating for social justice and more specifically how they came up with the idea and what they look for in books.

Mikayla spoke about how they came up with the idea. She noticed a lack of action related to social justice issues. She pointed out that the entire Interact club has a passion for educating people on social justice topics and promoting activities as well as a love for reading and discussion, so that was how they came up with the idea for a social justice book club.

They are also working on brainstorming some other ideas for social justice projects they can work on. They decided they would host a book club where they could read and discuss youth-oriented books focused on social justice and human rights.

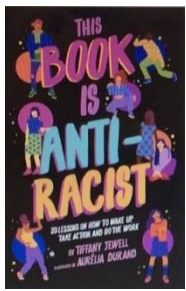
The club has five main goals they hope to accomplish through the social justice book club and their social justice advocacy:

1. **Learn about various social justice issues:** We want to encourage people to avoid ignorance because being ignorant is choosing to ignore problems. Knowledge is power and the first step to becoming an activist.
2. **Have thought-provoking conversations:** We want to create a safe space to be able to talk about these difficult topics, and encourage people to share their thoughts, opinions and experiences. If we make it normal to discuss these items, we allow for action and change. These conversations allow for people to listen, learn and reflect.
3. **Inspire and discuss ideas:** There are many ways to advocate for social justice, and we want to inspire people to use their talents to make a difference whether that is writing, protesting, creating art, organizing, volunteering, or whatever it might be.
4. **Take action and advocate for change:** It is not enough to simply read these anti-racist or social justice books, we need to speak out and take action to pursue your ideas that we have discussed. We can write to those in positions of power, fight for what we are passionate about, spread information, encourage others to learn more about social justice issues. The book club is really a first step.
5. **Empower youth activists:** It teaches young people to get involved and advocate for social justice which will create a new generation of strong leaders who are compassionate and have communication skills to make a difference.

Mikayla went on to disclose that when we look for our books, we make sure to choose books that incorporate a discussion of social justice issues and human rights. We look for books that discuss a variety of topics, such as racism, sexism, LGBTQ+ rights, ableism, socio-economic class, and that are:

- Inclusive and intersectional
- Empowering
- Interesting reads
- Youth-oriented





Mikayla went on to discuss each of the books the book club has discussed. The first book we read was [This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work](#) by Tiffany Jewell and Aurélie Durand. This book is an informative, non-fiction book about anti-racist youth activism. The book is split into 4 main sections each of which

Mikayla explained in depth. Mikayla also shared that the book is extremely well-written and graphically engaging, so it will catch and keep the attention of young people. She described it as an outstanding reference and resource for further continued study on racism. "This is a really powerful book!"

The second book, [Watch Us Rise](#) by Renée Watson and Ellen Hagan, is a novel about two girls who are sick of the way women are treated, even at their so-called progressive NYC high school. As a result, they decide to start a Women's Rights Club. This book explores sexism, racism, sizeism, fatphobia, and ableism. We decided that this book would be perfect for our club since it explores so many issues and empowers youth-activists to make a difference in their communities. Taking place in a school, this book had a lot of excellent conversation starters about education. The school believed it was doing a good job, when that was not the case. This sparked some amazing discussions and useful conclusions.



The upcoming book will be [It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood \[Adapted for Young Readers\]](#). In this book, Trevor Noah shares his story of growing up in South Africa, with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child like him to exist. For this book, Mikayla recommends listening to the audio book where the author Trevor Noah himself reads this well-written book.

Mikayla then shared a favorite quote of hers from Desmond Tutu that represents our attitude:

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

Mikayla notes

"This quote emphasizes how harmful it is to not take action because if you are not taking action or speaking out against injustices, you're showing that you

are okay with letting things be okay the way they are which is not good enough. We must be passionate about an issue, and then fight for it and be actively working towards a goal. Otherwise, it's just not enough. Otherwise, nothing will change if people stay quiet."

Mikayla closed by sharing the next Book Club date:

Sunday, January 24th from 1-2:30 PM

We will be discussing [Trevor Noah: Born a Crime](#)



[\[Adapted for Young Readers\]](#). Anyone interested, should RSVP to arcabo@live.com to receive the meeting ID and password. We hope to see you there!

After thanking Rotary and the Club for providing a platform such as this meeting that allows her to speak and for having the web site that gives her more of an opportunity to share including the blogs, Mikayla opened the floor to questions and comments.

Questions arose about whether Mikayla had ever seen any of Trevor Noah's presentations and/or interviews; why the adapted version is being utilized as opposed to the adult version; the current number of members in the Interact and book club. Mikayla was lauded as a very powerful speaker and encouraged to continue. Other questions included where Mikayla attends school - she is home-schooled. Mikayla was also asked if she ever gets criticized or accused of anything when she expresses her frank and honest opinions when it comes to racism. The answer in part was, "if you're showing up to one of these kinds of things, it's not likely you'll disagree with what's going on. . ." Mikayla was also asked if she had yet visited Nigeria. Throughout this Q and A exchange, DGN Ade shared information about Rotary's Youth Exchange, Interact and Rotaract programs and extolled the virtues of all. He also praised Mikayla and shared how proud he is of her.

President Sue told Mikayla that the Club would be inoculating 50 children against Polio in her honor and providing her with a Speaker certificate.

Lesley shared a few announcements:



- International Committee meets Friday, November 20th at noon via Zoom. Know there will be a speaker - Prakash Tata from Naperville making a brief presentation.
- President Sue Quinn is celebrating a birthday on November 19th.

Ade shared other announcements:


- District Governor [2023-24] interviews are being held this Saturday, November 21st, so keep the interview team in your prayers. "The future of the District looks wonderful."
- Foundation trainings will be held this evening. He also attended the Zone Foundation celebration last evening where the keynote was RI President Designee Jennifer Jones.

President Sue reminded folks there would be no meeting next week, and she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving -although it may not look exactly as we expected. At Ade's suggestion, In Sue's honor, the group sang "The Birthday Song."

Cathy Hall led the group in The Four-Way Test of the Things we Think, Say and Do, and then sent us on our way for a warm, wonderful, happy, healthy and **SAFE** Thanksgiving.

 December Birthdays	 December Anniversaries
December 1 - Phil Barry 8 - Dawn Ferencak	December Charlie Williams - 26 yrs John FS Williams - 26 yrs Cathy Adduci - 1 yr

District, Zone & Club Announcements . . .




Rotary

International Rotary Fellowship
of Healthcare Professionals

Wednesday, December 2, 2020
9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Central Time
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. GMT

Guest speakers include:
Neelam Dhingra-Kumar, MD, Coordinator, Patient Safety and Risk Management, World Health Organization, Geneva;
John Wahlund, Area of Focus Manager for Disease Prevention and Treatment, The Rotary Foundation;
Regina N. M Kamoga, Executive Director, CHAIN Uganda
Rotarians from Hyderabad Deccan
Dr John Phillip, Surgeon Chairman, International Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors
Pat Merryweather-Arges, Rotary Regional Foundation Coordinator, Project Patient Care Executive Director



DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT Month

Disease prevention and treatment has a goal of improving health and healthcare outcomes and providing safe care

Rotary People of Action

The International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals has launched the Quality and Safety Improvement in Health Care initiative. In 2019 the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution 'Global action on patient safety'. The resolution recognizes patient safety as a global health priority and endorsed the establishment of 'World Patient Safety Day' annually on 17 September. The WHO calls for action to bring together patients, families, caregivers, communities, health workers, health care

leaders and policymakers to show their commitment to patient safety.

On December 2, we will launch the initiative with Neelam Dhingra-Kumar, MD, Coordinator, Patient Safety and Risk Management, World Health Organization, Geneva and other guest speakers. All are invited to attend this free webinar - Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8182828282>



Rotarian Pamela Mahn has been named 2020 Senior Director of the Year by the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens' Service Committees. Congratulations to her for receiving this award.

Also, coming soon: an announcement about an award that the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens' Service Committees has conferred on the River Forest Township and Oak Park Township team for special programming *The Gifts of Genealogy and Meaningful Memoirs* that happened over the 2019-2020 schedule at River Forest Public Library.



Lesley and Rick still need fruitcake partners. **Wanted:** a few Rotarians who also like fruitcake, but who may be the only one in their family who does!! We've got the link to Collin

Street Bakery - which looks pretty darn good! - <https://collinstreet.com/> - but fellow fruitcake lovers may have other suggestions. Rick and Lesley are seeking "fruitcake partners" since ordering a whole fruitcake for one or two people is WAY TOO MUCH!! **We'd love to share some fruitcake with our friends!!!**

Interactors still need your recipes. The dates have changed, and the kids are hoping to have the book available for Easter giving. Please keep sending them your favorites. Help them create a cookbook of **AMAZING** Rotary family favorites. There is even a Rotary VIP section planned.

